

agencies to interrogate undocumented individuals in our country without any funding, because what the Federal Government is going to do is hand that responsibility to local sheriffs and city police officers and send the recommendation for the 250 Border Patrol officers to the House when they know we need 2,000. Let's stop handing it down to local governments and saying it is your responsibility. Let's man up, woman up and leader up and do what we have to do on behalf of the American people. We are saying if we are in the majority, we will do it.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. As I stated earlier, if Democratic amendments over the course of the past few years, the last 5 years, would have been adopted, there would be 6,600 more Border Patrol agents. There would be 1,400 more detention beds, and 2,700 more immigration enforcement agents along our borders to help us solve some of these problems.

It is a lot like when you invite me out to dinner and you offer to buy me dinner, and then you don't bring your wallet, you know what I mean, and then I end up paying for the dinner. It is just the same thing. You say you are going to provide the Border Patrol agents, and then there is no money there. You invite me to dinner, and then there is no money there. It is pretty much the same thing.

Mr. Speaker, as we wrap up here, this is the 30-something Working Group. We are taking e-mails. You can visit us at www.HouseDemocrats.gov/30something. All of the charts that you see here, Mr. Speaker, are accessible on that Web page.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Wanda Evans, one of his secretaries.

HONORING SERVICEMEMBERS IN GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. REICHERT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. WAMP) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, as I rise tonight to begin this hour, I rise with a very heavy heart, but with the most renewed sense of pride and patriotism I have ever had as I honor the life of Sergeant David Thomas Weir.

Sergeant David Weir died 8 days ago on the streets of Baghdad in service to our country. He is from Cleveland, TN, where last night over 2,000 people showed up at the Bradley Central High School football arena to honor a great American hero.

□ 1815

I spoke with Sergeant Weir's mother and father 2 days ago, Lynn and Jackie Weir, and it is just extraordinary to me

that there are families in this country that love freedom so much, love our country so much that even in the most grief and sadness they could ever imagine or experience, a hundred percent believe in the mission, the service, the sacrifice of their own son to defend liberty for our Nation.

Lynn Weir told me that if he would have tried, and he didn't, to keep his son from going, he could not have kept his son from going. He said David Weir, from the time he was a little boy, wanted to serve his country in uniform. He was a member of the 101st Airborne. This was his career. This was his way of life. He leaves a wife behind, Alison; a little 18-month-old son, Gavin, who does not understand what has happened. But everyone else knows very clearly what has happened. A great American patriot died doing what he wanted to do, which was to stand in harm's way on behalf of our civilian population, as the Greatest Generation did, as other generations have been called to, at a time when there is a very real and imminent threat to our way of life called the Islamic jihadists.

And Sergeant Weir goes to heaven, leaves this Earth, as others have, in the most sacrificial way, answering the scriptural call that says "No greater love hath any man than to lay down his life for his friends."

And I say to Jackie and to Lynn and to Alison and to Gavin, your father; your husband; Chris, his brother; your son gave his life for everyone in our country. We will never forget him. We will always remember him. We hail his life, a sacrificial life of service to others, putting everyone else above himself, believing in his mission and his comrades.

His father said he talked to him the day before and he was so excited about getting out in the streets of Baghdad because he didn't want to be sitting behind a desk, because that was not what he was trained to do. That was not what he volunteered to do. That was not what he was prepared to do. He did what he went there to do, and it cost him his life. And while his parents grieve, our State and our Nation stand united, I believe, in their full appreciation of his life and his sacrifice and his extraordinary courage and bravery.

On Monday, this coming Monday, I am honored to be with the family in Chattanooga, Tennessee, with full military honors as we lay him to rest in the national cemetery.

Thank you, Sergeant Weir, for loving our country so much that you were willing to die for it.

Another friend from my district, Lieutenant Colonel Brett Hale, is there serving in Iraq today. He is the commander of the Dragon Slayers. He too is a patriot. His family is back home praying for him every day, a wife and children.

He sent me an e-mail 10 days ago. I want to read part of it in my tribute and our honor on the House floor to-

night of these great American patriots who volunteered to serve our country and make their life secondary to ours.

He wrote me and said: "If we could only get the truth communicated to the public, they would know we have made great strides here in Iraq. Weekly we are transferring responsibility for the security in many provinces," and another one was transferred yesterday, "and cities back to the Iraqi military. While certain people want to say it is a 'civil war,' I want to tell you firsthand it is more about Islamic jihadists crossing over the borders. They continue to attempt to disrupt a young emerging democracy. The insurgents are capitalizing on the inexperience of this government and directly causing the sectarian violence and so-called fueling the fire. They get more and more strength and resolve when they hear the discourse in our country. They know it is only a matter of time before we give up because we perceive the war in Iraq is too difficult.

"We all know anything worthwhile is not easy. Freedom is not free. The Iraqis are trying to make it work. If we retreat, the terrorists win. They win now and they win in the future when they have a safe haven to plan, train, and operate and attack us again.

"It is our choice. We are either going to support our efforts to win the global war on terror, or we are going to support those that want to retreat inside our borders and wait for the next attack. We found out on 9/11 if we retreat, they attack.

"Finally, why did we go to Iraq? Ask yourself why did we fight Germany in World War II? Japan attacked us, not Germany. The same principle applies. We couldn't take the chance then and we can't now. Those that say otherwise are sympathizing with the enemy."

That is from Lieutenant Colonel Brett Hale to me on the ground in Iraq. What a patriot. As he says, the word is not getting out in this country in a fair way of the progress that we are making. As General Casey said, "If we leave, they will follow us home." These threats are real.

Mr. Speaker, I have been down here 4 weeks in a row as I have been in Washington to try to go through the severity of these real threats around the world and the fact that the jihadists are spreading like wildfire through Europe. Read the book "While Europe Slept." Read the book "Londonstan." You will know that through the mosques there is a radicalization under way. Even the Pope can't speak of it because it is not politically correct to say that fanaticism in religion is not good for the world. It ought to be obvious. Regardless of what the religion is or how many there are or what is politically correct, fanaticism does lead to holy wars and the crusades. And we don't want that. We want the mullahs and the ayatollahs to condemn suicide bombings. We want peace and security for the world. We want our allies to have a backbone and stand up and acknowledge the threat. We want our

President to go to the United Nations and say we can't appease other countries. We have to stand behind security for all and freedom for people and liberty everywhere.

We are all amazed in this country that from our own hemisphere to the south, the President of Venezuela comes to our country and says this. Hugo Chavez is his name. In this country we call each other out of respect. Even the people who just spoke, whom I couldn't disagree with more. The people who just spoke are all talking politics. They are all interested in the next election, not, frankly, the future of our country and preserving liberty and standing up and meeting the challenge of this generation. It is all for them about 47 days from now in an election instead of "I believe in my gut," standing up and protecting our country. But despite that, because we are decent, reasonable, we call them "honorable." We call each other "honorable," regardless of whether we agree or not.

I have got to tell you what the President of Venezuela did in this country yesterday was dishonorable. It dishonored his nation. It dishonors the people of his nation. It dishonors everyone south of here in our hemisphere because what it does is it causes people in this country not to trust or even like people who come into this country and say what President Hugo Chavez said yesterday.

He said this: "The devil was here yesterday. It still smells of sulfur around here," he added. He said, "The President of the United States, the gentleman to whom I refer as the devil, came here, talking as if he owned the world, truly, as the owner of the world."

"I think we could call a psychiatrist to analyze yesterday's statement made by the President of the United States. As the spokesman of imperialism, he came to share his nostrums, to try to preserve the current pattern of domination, exploitation, and pillage of the peoples of the world."

He said, "The President of the United States came to talk to the peoples—to the peoples of world. What would those peoples of the world tell him if they were given the floor? . . . I think I have some inkling of what the peoples of the south, the oppressed peoples, think. They would say, 'Yankee imperialist, go home.'"

"I have the feeling, dear world dictator, that you are going to live the rest of your days as a nightmare because the rest of us are standing up, all those who are rising up against American imperialism, who are shouting for equality, for respect, for the sovereignty of nations."

This was the President of Venezuela, in our country, saying this.

And let us praise a Democrat in this House named CHARLIE RANGEL, whom I seldom agree with. But, boy, do I appreciate his patriotism in defense of our country and its traditions when he said this today. He said, "You do not come into my country, my congress-

sional district, and you do not condemn my President. If there is any criticism of President Bush, it should be restricted to Americans, whether they voted for him or not. I just want to make it abundantly clear to Hugo Chavez or any other president, do not come to the United States and think because we have problems with our President that any foreigner can come to our country and not think that Americans do not feel offended when you offend our Commander in Chief."

Thank you, CHARLIE RANGEL, for being an honorable Democrat who stands united at this time of war.

Hugo Chavez is a troublemaker in a big way. He wants to work with Iranian President Ahmadinejad. I watched his interview last night on Anderson Cooper, and he calmly looked Anderson Cooper in the eyes, and he gave a very warped view of history, not even willing to acknowledge that the Holocaust took place. Completely in denial. You would have to wonder where in the world he gets his facts or his view of the world.

This is a troubling time in American history. I say to young people everywhere I go, the days ahead will be very, very difficult. We need to be honest with them about this. But the character of this great Nation was born out of the sacrifices, the courage, and the willingness to face these challenges of our grandparents and our great-grandparents. The Greatest Generation, they are the standard for stepping up to meeting global challenges, and they gave us our character. We didn't get our character by the big buildings or Wall Street or wealth or even military power. We got it by sacrifice and dedication and commitment and family, and they are the standard.

They didn't cower or retreat from these challenges. They stood up. They faced them head on. They showed us what it took to preserve freedom and extend it from one generation to the next. And we must do the same thing. We must come together as a Nation.

I hate it that we are in the middle of this political campaign while we are at war because it is not good for us to say the things we say, even on the floor of this House. It is not good for Lieutenant Colonel Hale and others to look back here and see the potshots being fired. I hate it that over half of the Democrats in the Senate voted to remove Saddam Hussein by force and almost half of the Democrats voted and now they all say it was a mistake.

Let me tell you there has never been a pretty war. Never. There has never been one perfectly executed, and you do not remove a genocidal mass murderer with a picnic. It is ugly. And a brand new democracy takes a while to develop. And it is tough. Tough. But thank goodness that men and women in uniform will volunteer to go serve and carry out this tough mission and extend liberty from one generation to the next. These are difficult days. America needs to pull together.

I want to yield to my colleagues that have come tonight, two of the people I respect the most in the House. First the gentlewoman from North Carolina.

□ 1830

VIRGINIA FOXX is a new Member, but you would never know it because she has got tons of experience, and she has been down here standing up for what she believes, day in and day out. I want to yield to her on this most important issue of global security.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from Tennessee (Mr. WAMP) for organizing this event tonight, and the other ones that he has mentioned. I think it is important that we stand up here and explain to the American people things that they may not hear on their local television station, and that we let folks know how strongly some of us feel about what is happening in this world and what options we have and what things we ought to be doing about it.

Mr. Speaker, the proliferation of Islam extremism and jihadism has already inflicted our Nation with great pain; and it continues to grow and spread. And it is our job to continue to fight these Islamofascists on their land and on our terms. Any other option is unacceptable.

When the Islamic religion is perverted, twisted and turned into an excuse for hatred, violence and the extermination of entire populations, we must stand against it and remain steadfast in our battle to eliminate this extremism.

This situation has been brewing for a long time. It is not something that just happened overnight. It is a clash of ideologies. It is a fight between freedom and democracy versus terrorism and tyranny. This is a battle we cannot afford to lose.

To allow the terrorists to win would destroy America and modern civilization as a whole. We must persist in rooting out terrorist cells and those who preach hatred and death and continue to adapt to the needs of the war on terror to ensure security, stability and freedom throughout the world.

Make no mistake about it, this goal will yield a prolonged effort. We must never forget the day America awoke to the frightening new world where jihadists flew planes into buildings, killing over 3,000 innocent civilians. While we have yet to experience another attack on American soil, there are continuous plots that have been executed and others that have been foiled. The bombing of a night club in Bali, the bombing of a commuter train in Spain, and the bombings last summer in London on the subway and buses are only a brief list of terrorist attacks that have been planned and executed by Islamofascists.

Yet, through intelligence sharing, surveillance programs, and effective antiterrorist initiatives, other plans have been foiled, such as the attempt of shoe bomber Richard Reed and the

recent plot to blow up planes en route to the United States from Great Britain.

Furthermore, due to the nature of their work, the greatest success by those in our intelligence community will never be known. There is no negotiating with Islamofascists who demand death and violence against anyone who does not accept their warped world view. We must remain vigilant against this very brutal and very real threat.

As I speak of the rising threat of Islamofascism and its role in the global war on terror, I must object to the unbelievable and outright deceptive speech of the President of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. While we should be condemning such tyrannical leaders who preach hate and destruction, I was stunned that he was given the opportunity to address the United Nations, an organization whose resolutions he has repeatedly ignored.

It points out again how dysfunctional the U.N. has become. He mentioned that justice was a victim of force and aggression, which it certainly was when he participated in the overthrow of the American embassy in Iran in 1979 and held American hostages for 444 days.

He spoke of ridding the world of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons, yet he continually refuses to halt the production of enriched uranium in Iran. He wants to rid the world of aggression and strive for peace, even though he created a proxy war in Lebanon and continually funnels weapons to Hezbollah.

I was astonished when he spoke of dignity for all human beings and his longing for peace. These words are surprising to hear from a man who has prayed for the demise of America and constantly calls for Israel to be wiped off the map.

His biography reads like a horror novel, directing multiple assignments while he was in elite military units and working with Ansar-I Hizbullah, the violent Islamic vigilante group. His main goal is the destruction of Western Civilization.

That speech was a complete farce. He has shown his true agenda time after time, and one misleading speech at the United Nations will not fool America or the world. While we witnessed the Iranian dictator lecture us on freedom, democracy and justice, it is ironic that in his own country this tyrant denies his own people the basic rights of freedom of speech and freedom of assembly.

His speech focused on freedom, justice and dignity for human beings. But as the president, he has done nothing to bring any of his so-called goals to his own people. Women are denied rights of inheritance, divorce and child custody, and use of their rights of self-expression and economic creativity.

Basic rights are denied to the people of Iran, and that is why, even with the soaring prices of oil, more than 40 per-

cent of the Iranians live below the poverty line. Today in Iran, dissent is brutally suppressed and terror is the regime's only instrument of domestic or foreign policy.

While he may resent us for being powerful, he does not realize that the foundation of our power is rooted in the freedom of our great people to pursue happiness, to innovate and to speak freely.

This tyrant accuses the free world that they are denying the people of Iran their right to nuclear energy. Yet he forgets that the Islamic regime is denying the great people of Iran their God-given rights to self-respect and human dignity. He spoke of universal justice, yet he denies the existence of the Holocaust.

This regime wrongfully portrays the war on terror as a war of civilizations. Yet, he uses every opportunity to export its brutal ideology violently to other nations. We are not at war with any peaceful religion or civilization. We are at war with terrorists, and terrorists' warped interpretation of religion.

We need to protect the civilized world from the threat that these people represent. Mr. Speaker, we suffered a setback on the war on terrorism by allowing this terrorist a podium from which to address the world.

And, again, I think that it is our place here in the United States Congress to remind the world of who is the country that represents true freedom, true democracy, true opportunity for people, and to continue to bring this message to people and speak the truth, instead of allowing people like that to come to this country and live in a fantasy world that they live in.

Again, I want to thank my colleagues for being here tonight, and for the other times that they have been here to bring this message to the country and to anyone who is watching us. I want to turn the time back over to my colleague, Mr. WAMP from Tennessee.

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her service and for her message tonight on this global threat.

Before I yield to the gentleman from Michigan, let me just remind everyone here in the House of Representatives and anyone who may be watching our proceedings tonight, Mr. Speaker, that regardless of what some would have you believe, or even you may get filtered to you through the national media, this war is with fanatics called the jihadists, who, by their own charter and their own doctrine, want to reestablish a caliphate for themselves and their rule that extends from northwest Africa all of the way east, basically, to the Far East, through Indonesia, above Australia.

And I say that because those are the words that were in the letter that Zarqawi wrote to Zawahiri before we killed Zarqawi. The top al Qaeda leaders, in their own communication with each other, said, use the infidels', the

U.S., that is what they call us, presence in Iraq to recruit insurgents and other terrorists to try to extend this caliphate, reestablish the caliphate for radical Arab rule. So this is an aggressive plan.

If we left Iraq tomorrow, the terrorists would not only win, but it would advance their cause. And it is spreading. This is a real threat, and it did not just start on September 11. That was one more attack. It happened to be the largest. But it was not the first on American soil or American sovereignty.

They tried to bring the World Trade Center down in 1993, and their engineering did not work. We did not pay enough attention to it. But they had hit our embassies, which is sovereign U.S. land in other countries, time and time again, the same people.

It all started, Mr. Speaker, in 1979 in Iran, the sponsor of Hezbollah, which has now exported terrorism and frankly stolen the government of Lebanon from the Lebanese people and engaged in war with Israel, and elected terrorist leadership in Palestine called Hamas. And these terror networks are coordinating and spreading and the threats are growing, and our way of life in the future will be at stake if men and women do not stand in harm's way on our behalf.

And you may say, well, that is over there on the other side of the ocean. But I will tell you when Hugo Chavez comes here and says what he said yesterday, and he is coordinating and communicating with these terrorist leaders from other countries, and identifying himself with them, standing with them, wanting to be on their team, and he is in our hemisphere, and through his oil he is trying to bribe and own other South American countries by lending them oil so they will be obligated to him, and he has a warped sense of reality, and comes and says these ridiculous crazy things like he said yesterday, we have threats.

That brings us to the southern border. Because I will tell you, our security in this country is critically attached to our ability to keep people that we do not want in this country from coming across the most porous place, and that is our southern border. I want to talk about that again in a moment, but right now I want to yield to a Member from Michigan who people from one side of the spectrum to the other here in this House look at as one of the most knowledgeable, intellectual, thoughtful, tough Members of the House, THADDEUS MCCOTTER from Michigan. I am so honored he came to the floor tonight to stand with me and go through this Special Order. The gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. For a moment there I thought you were introducing someone else. But I appreciate the compliment, however misguided it may be. We in America are so seemingly secure in our rights, our liberties, our

God-given constitutionally recognized rights, that we too often cursorily scan our Nation's foundational truths which secure those liberties.

We also as a young Nation far too often have a disdain for history, because since our inception, our eyes always have been fixed forward, towards the progression of our Nation and the expansion of liberty to our fellow Americans. We also, because of the size of our country and its vast beauty, tend to overlook world geography and the relative situation of other nations to each other.

We cannot do that any longer. We cannot ignore the mistakes of past history. We cannot ignore the realities of geography. And we cannot ever endeavor to forget our own history. As the gentleman pointed out, we call each other in this house "honorable," and rightly so. For we are all people who have been elected to serve our fellow Americans.

And he rightly pointed out the remarks of the gentleman, the distinguished and honorable gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL). He could not have pointed to a finer example. Because Mr. RANGEL not only serves his Nation in this Chamber; Mr. RANGEL also is a decorated veteran who served his Nation in a foreign war.

I bring up history to Mr. RANGEL because like the gentleman from Tennessee and the gentlewoman from North Carolina, to Mr. RANGEL history has a way of revealing the elemental truths of a Nation to itself however unwilling we may be at the time to recognize them, for the very same Mr. RANGEL who defended our Nation abroad, had ancestors in this country who were enslaved by the government and the people of this Nation.

The gentleman from Tennessee and the gentlewoman from North Carolina and myself doubtless had relatives in the United States at the time of the Civil War who were sworn enemies who endeavored to kill each other.

□ 1845

Yet because of the foundational truth of this Nation, we stand here today recognizing each other as honorable and joined in the peaceful resolution of our political disputes, because where there is liberty, there is a chance to transcend history to a better tomorrow. In our Nation's history, we have always done so.

When we look abroad, we can go back to the past of that great conflagration that emancipated a race and forged a more perfect Union, to what we are trying to do today. For it is by remembering that in the age of industrialization America could not endure half slave and half free that we realize in an age of globalization our world cannot endure half slave and half free.

When we face the grim contest, the unsought struggle in which we find ourselves against Jihadist fascism, which is more akin to a death cult than any governing political philos-

ophy, we can trace the strain of our own trials and tribulations to ensure more perfect liberty to ourselves and to the efforts that young men and women of our military and our State Department and others are trying to expand throughout the globe, because we know that America's security rests in the promotion of liberty.

We face an enemy that seeks to enslave the globe under its warped worship of death. If we fail in the task before us in the Middle East, if we allow the newly emancipated people of Iraq, the newly emancipated people of Afghanistan, to be thrown to the wolves at their door, and allow Iraq to evolve back into a state sponsor of terror, if we allow the Taliban and its bloodthirsty ilk to again rule Afghanistan and turn female parliamentarians back into property, slavery will have consumed them, and our liberty will be imperiled.

When we look at the efforts of Ahmadinejad and Chavez, we see a common union between oppressors. We see that the Iranian President would seek to impose the oppression that he puts upon his own people, and his common link with the Venezuelan oppressor of his own people. It would be easy at this point in time to see Mr. Chavez is nothing but a third-rate Castro clone, but he is not, because while Mr. Chavez may seem to us to be a bit of a caricature, he is actually a very cunning individual, as is the President of Iran.

The President of Iran, I believe, has a very good grasp of geography. The President of Iran understands that while we have helped to expand liberty on the frontiers of Iran in places such as Afghanistan and Iraq, which have put nascent democracies on his doorstep, he needs only to look to South America to see the conditions of poverty and oppression that are rife within that continent and seek to prey upon them by joining league not with duly elected democratic governments that are out to better the quality of lives of their people, but he joins hands with Hugo Chavez to attack the President of the United States, to attack the United States of America, to distract both their citizens, citizens of both countries, from the reality that it is they who are oppressing them, not the United States, who is emancipating them.

If we look at our southern border and the absence of security, the comity between Mr. Ahmadinejad and Mr. Chavez is clear, and the danger to our security becomes clear. If we have, as some reports lead us to believe, indications of Jihadist fascism in South America, in Mexico, in other places, that are willing to cross the border, or joining with gangs to cross the border, it is painfully obvious to see that what the President of Iran will do is export his version of worldwide slavery, through the person of Mr. Chavez, with the assistance of the Cuban dictator Fidel Castro, and try to utilize our lax and

porous southern border to help these individuals infiltrate the United States.

You see, we may not know geography, we may not learn the lessons of history of how dictators band together to attack free people, and we may be devoid of our own knowledge of our own responsibilities to each other and to our fellow citizens, but our enemies are not. Our enemies believe our strengths are our weaknesses. It is up to us to prove them wrong.

For as every generation of Americans before us, when faced with a challenge to their own liberty and security, have met that challenge directly, they have defeated it, and they have expanded liberty to their fellow human beings abroad.

I have no doubt we will continue to do the same, because as Americans it has been our tradition, and it is our duty, and we have never shirked from our duty as a free people.

Mr. WAMP. I thank the gentleman so much for his articulation of these problems, and the potential threats. Clearly our hemisphere could become a serious problem for us because of these relationships. If you don't think it's a global problem, you should follow what has happened in East and North Africa just in recent weeks where, in Somalia, one of the top al Qaeda members on our watch list is put in charge of the Government of Somalia.

The Sudan is a meltdown, there is a vacuum; Algeria, much the same. Just last week, for the first time, our country established a U.S. military command in northern Africa. Why? Because there is a vacuum in leadership.

What interests do the terrorist networks have in a vacuum of leadership? That is what they had in Afghanistan. The Taliban took over Afghanistan because there was no leadership, and it gave them a sovereign nation from which to operate.

Frankly, one of the elemental factors in my decision to vote to remove Saddam Hussein by force was to make sure that in the heart of the Middle East we didn't give them another sovereign nation from which to operate, and we sure don't want to let them come into one of these areas in northern Africa and take over a country like they did Afghanistan.

You know, it was a crafty way that Hezbollah took control in Lebanon. Go in with some money backed by Iran, money and oil revenues, and basically put people to work, make them obligated to you. Frankly, it is the same kind of thing that Castro did years ago with communism in Central and South America. Meet them at their point of need, make friends with them, and then put them to work for your way of thinking, dictatorial; speaking of imperialism, repressing all human rights. You know, I tell you what, I daresay that people in Venezuela don't have the right to speak there as Chavez spoke here in just the most blatant way. These threats are real. No one, no one likes war.

John Stuart Mill said this: War is an ugly thing, but it is not the ugliest of things. He said the decayed and degraded state of patriotic feeling which thinks that nothing is worth war is much worse. He said a person who has nothing for which they are willing to fight, nothing they care more about than their own personal safety, is a miserable creature, who has no chance of ever being free, unless those very freedoms are made and kept by better persons than himself, end quote.

Those better persons are the men and women in uniform of our Armed Forces, who every single one volunteered to serve our country; whether in the Guard, Reserve or Active Duty, every single one of them volunteered to stand in harm's way on our behalf.

The President of the United States believes deep in his soul that this mission must be carried out and completed, and I agree with him. It is so important, especially right now, with all of these voices in the world and all of these people jockeying for legitimacy and position, that we are not in retreat, that we follow through on our commitments, that we don't leave the people of the Middle East wondering if America has all of a sudden, for the first time in 230 years, lost our heart, lost our backbone, our resolve.

We can't afford to fail in Iraq. No matter how you voted, or no matter how many mistakes have been made, or no matter how you spin it, we can't afford to fail. We can't afford to retreat. We can't afford to leave early. There is a lot at stake. The enemy is real. The enemy is all over the place.

I am a member of the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee, have been since we established the Department of Homeland Security. Some things I can say, some things I can't say. There are a lot of people in this country we don't want here, because we are free, because there are 2,000 miles along the Mexican-U.S. border, because there are 5,500 miles along the Canadian-U.S. border, because there are 12,000 miles of U.S. coastline, because there are 328 million people that come across our land border crossings each year, because there are 71 million people that come in through our international airports from all over the world. There are 157 land ports of entry.

We have a lot of people coming and going from this country, and now there are a lot of people in this country that, the truth is, we don't want them here; that because we are a free country and they haven't yet done anything wrong here, we don't remove them. We don't line them up and ship them out until they do something wrong. But I have got to tell you, we are watching them, because the threats are real.

Hezbollah is the A team in terrorism. They are the source of the conflict between the Lebanese, well, actually, between Hezbollah and Israel in Lebanon, because they pirated the country from the Lebanese, not their fault. That was

a huge conflict 2 months ago. Thankfully they are not warring today, but that is Iranian-based, started next door to Iraq, still the source of the terrorist insurgents into Iraq.

These threats are real, they are global, and we have to watch our own southern border.

Let me continue on the southern border. There is a lot of talk about immigration reform, and we need to continue to carry it out. But I will tell you, the American people just want to see that southern border that I mentioned was 2,000 miles long secured. But one thing that we haven't had much help in is the word getting out of what has happened, because I want to tell you, as a member of that subcommittee, what has happened in the last 12 months, because there has been a serious effort under way to secure the southern border in the last 12 months.

Last week our chairman, Hal Rogers from Kentucky, gave testimony to our entire leadership at a hearing, and I attended it, that is really compelling. One of the most important things that the Department of Homeland Security has done is they ended the policy that had evolved from 20 years back that was known as catch and release, and replaced it with a new policy called catch and return.

Now, catch and release said that if you were an illegal immigrant coming across our southern border, and you were apprehended, you would be arrested for a misdemeanor charge of illegally entering the United States and released on your own recognizance depending on your open court date, and people obviously would not come to court. So thereby people would gain into our country and disappear into our country and probably get a bogus Social Security card so that they could be hired by somebody, and that would constitute the 12 million illegals that we have here now.

We stopped that policy. In the last 60 days, 99 percent of aliens apprehended along the southwest and northern borders are detained and removed from this country. So catch and release was replaced by catch and remove. A year ago, it was 34 percent were sent back to their country of origin. Today it is 99 percent, a huge change in the culture.

Now, let me tell you what that act says, and the gentleman in the chair knows that better than anybody because of his background. It acts as a deterrent. What you want in law enforcement is not a perfect system that catches every single person every single time; you want a deterrent that is raised a level at which it keeps things from happening because most of the people get caught.

This is an effective deterrent, because word has spread back through Central and South America that if you go to all the hassle of getting to the southern border, and then somehow you get across, I am going to tell you in a minute that is not as easy as it used to be either, and you get caught,

you will not be released into the United States of America. You will be held and then sent back to your country of origin. Once that word spreads, a whole lot less people come because they don't want to go to the hassle and the risk of dying or being injured or whatever, and then not be released into our country.

But it was so easy for so long that it happened so often, and we ended up with 12 million. As a matter of fact, in July of this year alone, our Border Patrol apprehended 66,000 illegal aliens along the Mexican border, a staggering number in 1 month, 66,000 illegal aliens.

□ 1900

But, guess what? That was 31,000 fewer than the previous year in the same month. Word is getting out: we are not going to allow you to stay; don't come here illegally.

Yet we are going to come up with, I believe before the end of this year, not only strengthened border security in a meaningful way, which is well under way with 6,000 National Guard troops. \$21.2 billion has been spent on the southern border in the last 12 months. \$21.2 billion, on everything from agents to detention beds.

We now have 13,000 agents and 4,000 new detention beds, 1,500 new Border Patrol agents, for over 13,000 agents and 6,000 Guardsmen. That is 18,000 people on the southern border, catching these people by the minute and sending them home and getting the word out: you are not going to be released into this country. It is an effective deterrent. Things are changing.

But I do believe by the end of the year we are not only going to have additional legislation to continue the fence, sometimes it is visible, sometimes it is not because you can have a protective barrier by using the latest in technology depending on the frequency of people coming, but we are also, I believe, going to come up with some kind of a guest worker plan, so that the work gets done in agriculture, in construction, that needs to be done; but everybody is going to know.

You have got to identify yourself and have a real card, biometrically certified, that this is you. Employers are going to have a period of time to comply, or there will be serious enforcement. I believe we are going to deliver this whole thing by the end of the year.

But the border is much more secure than it was a year ago. Tremendous progress has been made.

More Members have come to join me. When the gentleman from Texas is ready, I want to yield time to him, because few people have the experience that he has, both in the law and being from the State of Texas on this particular issue of border security.

Let me also say that the Department of Homeland Security is going to roll out this month, in September, a multi-billion dollar border security technology and tactical infrastructure program called SBI Net, a program that is

committed to obtaining control of the borders within the next 5 years.

What they are doing now in the Science and Technology Directorate at the Department of Homeland Security under the incredibly capable leadership of Admiral Cohen is deploying finally all the abundant technology that we have. Even Thomas Friedman, who wrote "The World is Flat," has had to amend his book to say, I overlooked a lot of technology that exists in this country.

We are now taking that technology to the border to put it to use through the Department of Homeland Security to secure the border and biometrically certify people.

Now, we don't want a national ID card, but we want people who are coming here to work to have a card that shows that is them. I believe that is going to be part of this more comprehensive solution. I don't want to even use the word "comprehensive solution," because the Senate passed a bill earlier this year that they called comprehensive immigration reform that is going to cause many, many, many more problems than it is going to solve.

So we don't want to be associated with that comprehensive approach. We want to say that we want a guest worker plan with border security and get it done, and we are getting it done.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT).

Mr. GOHMERT. I thank the gentleman. I appreciate the time, and I appreciate your calling attention to so many of these important issues. We have heard today that there is an agreement between the White House and the Senate on the issue of interrogation.

It has amazed me, Mr. Speaker, that so many people that work here in the Capitol, most of them down at the other end, have not understood what really goes on. You would have thought, especially someone who had been a POW, would understand what people like my hero, former POW Sam Johnson, understands, that, as he has pointed out to me, Korea signed on to the Geneva Convention, Vietnam signed on to the Geneva Convention, they did not observe it at all. Yet we had people in this Capitol saying, gee, we have got to be careful because it might cause mistreatment of our troops.

All you got to do is look around, look at the news, read the news. Our troops have been, are being, mistreated. When you stick a knife and cut the guy's throat and head as he is screaming, that is not somebody that observes the Geneva Accords. We don't do that kind of thing. We never have, never will. But we are in a war for our survival.

One of the things that has probably amazed my friends on this side of the aisle is we have heard even from a former marine lambasting current active duty marines as being cold-blood-

ed killers, as saying the Defense Department is all engaged in this cover-up. They need to give credit where credit is due.

I spent 4 years in the Army, and I can tell you having visited troops around different spots in the globe and the country, we have the best fighting forces, men and women, ever in our history; and they deserve better treatment than they have been getting. Oh, yes, we hear, oh, we support our troops, and in the same breath turn around and lambaste them.

So if it would be permissible, I would like to pay tribute to one more. I did this last night, a man that won the Congressional Medal of Honor for his bravery and heroism. I would like to pay tribute right now to another gentleman. I have been asking for information on people that won our Nation's highest awards, to pay tribute, as a contrast to what some of our friends across the aisle have done in lambasting and criticizing so unfairly our troops.

Tonight, I would like to recognize another true American hero. On October 28, 2005, Dallas native Captain Joshua Glover was presented this Nation's third highest award for valor in combat, the Silver Star Medal.

The 2001 Naval Academy graduate received his award in Washington, D.C. from the commandant of the Marine Corps, General Michael Hagee.

Glover received the award for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy while serving as 81mm mortar platoon commander with Weapons Company and quick reaction force platoon commander, 1st Marine Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom on April 13, 2004, in Fallujah.

That morning, First Lieutenant Josh Glover led and directed his platoon through enemy lines to recover classified material from a downed CH-53 helicopter. As the sun came up, they started receiving incoming fire, including a mortar fire explosion that created three casualties.

With wounded marines, Glover got permission to return to base. On the way back, the convoy ran into between 30 and 40 insurgents hiding in reeds, irrigation ditches and standing by the road firing from the hip. As they plowed on, one of the Humvees was hit, wounding several more marines, which also included one fatality.

Running on flat tires, the convoy made its way back to base, only to be sent out again 7 hours later. Despite losing one of their own that morning, Lieutenant Glover's marines were ready to go again under his command.

About 15 marines were trapped behind enemy lines after insurgents hit their amphibious vehicle with several rocket-propelled grenades, killing one marine and wounding two others. Under heavy insurgent fire, a rocket-propelled grenade, or an RPG, was shot at Glover's vehicle at close-range and thankfully missed.

Glover and his marines found themselves up against a company-sized Iraqi force along the enemy's main line of resistance where as stated in the Silver Star citation: "He repeatedly exposed himself to enemy fire as he engaged enemy targets at point-blank range while directing the rifle platoon's relief and coordinating recovery operations."

Ultimately, Lieutenant Glover and his marines fought their way through to the marines trapped and were able to get them and the slain marine's body out.

When asked about the war, Lieutenant Glover humbly diverted attention away from himself and said, "I received this award because of something we did as a platoon. I am really proud of what we accomplished that day."

He said, "When you are in combat, I think you do it for your fellow marines. You know you got 60 reasons why you have got to do it well."

While the battle for which Glover was awarded was a success, he feels the enormity of the price that was paid. "I lost a marine that day, as did another unit in the battalion. We cannot separate the victory from the loss, and I think we need to do our best to make them and their families proud."

In addition to the Silver Star, Captain Glover has also received two Purple Hearts, a Navy Achievement Medal and a Navy Commendation Medal, both with combat distinguishing device for valor. He served three tours in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to stand here tonight and share this story of heroism, bravery and humility. Josh Glover, like so many others fighting alongside him, represent the best of the best. That is the kind of story America needs to hear, not predetermined judgment of our fine troops. They deserve our support, not just in lip service that, oh yes, we support the troops, but are they ever a bunch of cold-blooded killers. That is not support. That is both condemnation and hypocrisy.

So it is an honor to stand here with my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, and pay tribute to our troops. They are not only protecting freedom, they are spreading freedom, and we ought to thank God for them, as we do, and thank God for our freedom, thank God for our liberty, and thank God for the opportunity all of us have to serve.

Mr. WAMP. I thank the gentleman from Texas. I want to yield again to the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I know our time is short. I thank the gentleman.

I wish to emphasize why, as the gentleman from Texas pointed out, our border security efforts to date have been a good step, but they must be increased.

History shows us that once before an enemy of the United States, the communist Soviet Union and its Bolshevik dictators, joined league with the communist Castro on the island of Cuba to plant nuclear weapons 70 miles off the United States shores.

What a sad irony in history it would be for the United States today to see a dictator in Tehran join league with the oppressive dictator Mr. Chavez in Venezuela to potentially place nuclear devices within America's borders.

I think we should look back to what President Kennedy talked about when he addressed the Cuban missile crisis in order to steel ourselves for the struggles ahead. President Kennedy pointed out that America does not keep its word only when it is easy. America does not keep its word only when it is easy. And while the price of freedom is always high, Americans have always paid it.

I am convinced that if we learn from the lessons of histories and from the successes of individuals like President Kennedy, from his commitment to defending this Nation, to the expansion of liberty, we ourselves will see the day where both Cuba and Venezuela and the people of Iran are free.

Mr. WAMP. I thank the gentleman, and in closing, let me say this. I am not the most partisan person here at all. As a matter of fact, I don't think either party has an exclusive on integrity or ideas. I grew up a Democrat, and now I'm a Republican.

Argue with us about the role of the Federal Government in education and whether it is best at the local level, the State level or Federal level. Argue with us whether the health care system should be turned over to the government or private.

But don't argue with us whether we are fighting these threats of global jihadism and whether we unite anymore at the water's edge in defense of liberty. Don't argue with us on that. Join us. Be patriotic and honor the sacrifice and the legacy of the Greatest Generation.

THE NEW DIRECTION FOR AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. REICHERT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to address the House once again. I would like to thank the Democratic leadership for allowing us to have this hour, the 30-something Working Group. We come to the floor for the second time tonight to share the new direction for America.

There is great reason to promote a new direction for America, especially as it relates to our actions near the U.S. House of Representatives.

I don't want to take any great deal of responsibility for what is said or what is done in the White House, because I am a Member of Congress, and Article I, section 1 authorizes us to take legislative action. Also within our rules and the spirit of our rules is to have a level of oversight and also investigative powers here in the House.

There are a number of things that are taking place in our country that

have been pushed forth or have been rubber-stamped by this House out of the administration that should not be, and we want to make sure as we start talking about our new direction for America, especially on the Democratic side of the aisle, that if we are in control we look forward to working in a bipartisan way, making sure that Republicans who do want to be a part of this new direction can definitely participate in that process if it is within the spirit of making sure that we have real security here, here in the United States as it relates to implementing the 9/11 Commission recommendations.

□ 1915

Also, making sure that we have better pay for jobs that American workers carry out day in and day out. The minimum wage has not been increased through this Congress and through the White House since 1997. It is very unfortunate that we do have some Members on the other side of the aisle that are willing to vote for pay increases to Members of Congress, including Senators, but not pay increases or a minimum wage increase for the American people, which we have said on this side of the aisle that one of the first actions of the Congress, of the Democratic Congress, would be to make sure that we move the minimum wage to \$7.25.

Making sure that we deal with the cost of the increased college tuition that has been brought about through this rubber-stamp Republican majority. We are willing to reverse that and make sure that we give tax deductions to those that want to educate themselves and those family members who want to assist in that process, making sure that we expand Pell Grants. A lot of promises were made right up here at this podium just below your podium there, Mr. Speaker, the President made as it relates to the expansion of Pell Grants, and that has not happened. It has decreased in many ways.

Energy independence. It is important that we do this. Just today I was watching the evening news talk about how some billionaires in other parts of the world and here have invested in an initiative of the Clinton Foundation as it relates to making us energy independent. Some \$10 billion of the president and CEO of Virgin Airlines has put in over the next 4 or 5 years to make sure we can look for alternative fuels. These are private citizens that are now stepping up to try to look for alternative fuels because they have seen what it has done to the United States of America.

Since the Congress does not want to rein in big oil companies and wants to have a special relationship with big oil companies where they receive more subsidies than they will ever receive in the history of the Republic, and also higher profits and the highest profits that they have ever experienced in the history of the world, leave alone the United States of America, and still there is no legislation that is really

promoting alternative fuels through this House.

We are dedicated and committed to making sure that not only the research, but making sure the access for E85, using coal and other alternative fuel initiatives, to make sure that we invest in the Midwest versus the Middle East. And what is happening right now, the Republican Congress is voting to invest in the Middle East versus the Midwest.

Making sure that health care is affordable for every American. I think that is very, very important. Some people may say, well, Congressman, you are talking about individuals. We are not talking about individuals. We are talking about small business having an opportunity to provide health care for their employees. We are talking about companies as big as Ford having a plan to lay off or a plan to have early retirement for many of their employees, mainly because of health care costs, of what it is costing big companies here in the U.S. and small companies as they go to provide opportunities for their workers.

And looking at the issue of balancing the budget, I think that is very, very important as relates to bringing this out-of-control spending and borrowing Congress. The Republican majority has borrowed more money from foreign nations in 4 years than in the history of this country. No other time, 224 years prior to this Republican administration that we have now and the rubber-stamp Republican majority that we have here in the House, no other time in the history of the country, this is not our numbers, these are the numbers of the U.S. Department of Treasury, that we see that kind of activity taking place.

We are the only party, Mr. Speaker, I must add here, in this House that has actually balanced the budget. Other people can talk about it. We have actually done it. If there was a job interview, and the Republican Conference versus Democratic Caucus and individuals talk about balancing the budget, the qualifications are clear that here on this side of the aisle, without one Republican vote, I do not like to say that, but without one Republican vote, that we balanced the budget. It is what it is. It is history, and it could be the future as it relates to this House if allowed to lead this House by the American people.

Also, when we look at the Social Security, we talked about this in our last hour. There are a number of Republicans and also the President has just said if he gets the kind of rubber-stamp Congress he has right now, he is going to continue to celebrate in moving towards the area of privatization, privatizing Social Security. That is not what I am saying. That is what the President has said. So I think it is important for people to understand that.

On this side of the aisle, there was about 1,000 town hall meetings that took place in districts throughout the